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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SPM-01 PC-10 IGA-02 AGR-20 EB-11

SWF-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SP-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /101 W
---------- 096198
R 100910Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8251
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

UNCLAS KABUL 3561

FOR STATE, AID, USIA,

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AF, US, EAGR, SPOP

SUBJECT: PRIVATE VISIT OF DR. NORMAN BORLAUG, CIMMYT, WHEAT

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MAY 15-21, 1974

REF: MEXICO 3450

SUMMARY: BORLAUG, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER AND DEVELOPER OF WHEATS WHICH SPARKED GREEN REVOLUTION, STOPPED IN AFGHANISTAN FOR ONE WEEK. ACTING UPON CABLE NOTICE FROM AMEMB MEXICO OF BORLAUG'S PLANNED VISIT, USAID/A INFORMALLY MADE THIS KNOWN TO APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS WHO QUOTE TOOK HIM INTO THEIR ARMS UNQUOTE WHEN HE ARRIVED. BORLAUG'S THEME IN CONVERSATIONS, SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND PRESS CONFERENCE WAS INCREASING FOOD-GRAIN PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY WHEAT FOR AFGHANISTAN, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO UNCONTROLLED POPULATION GROWTH. HE URGED AFGHANS TO PUSH ACTION PROGRAMS FOR WHEAT RESEARCH AND GREATER USE OF FERTILIZER. HIGHLY INFORMATIVE EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD WHEN BORLAUG SUGGESTED AFGHANISTAN CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER UREA PLANT WHICH PRESIDENT THEN CONFIRMED WAS IN CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN. BORLAUG OFFERED CIMMYT TRAINING
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FOR AFGHANS. ALL IN ALL VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. ACTION

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REQUIRED: NONE.

1. IN HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD ATTENDED ALSO BY AMBASSADOR AND DEPURTY FOREIGN MINISTER, BORLAUG URGED CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL FERTILIZER MANUFACTURING CAPACITY SINCE AFGHANISTAN HAS NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH CAN SUPPLY RAW MATERIALS FOR ANOTHER UREA MANUFACTURING PLANT. PRESIDENT RESPONDED WITH INFORMATION THAT SECOND UREA PLANT WAS IN CURRENT (1351-1355) FIVE YEAR PLAN. ALSO, BORLAUG OFFERED TO ASSIST MAI IN TRAINING ADDITIONAL SCIENTISTS AT CIMMYT HEADQUARTERS IN MEXICO AND AGREED TO COVER TRAINING COSTS FROM CIMMYT FUNDS FOR ONE PARTICIPANT. AFGHANS ATTENDING THIS CENTER WOULD RECEIVE PRACTICAL TRAINING IN CONDUCTING WHEAT AND CORN RESEARCH. ALSO, TRAINING WOULD BE GIVEN TO OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN QUOTE DAY-TO-DAY UNQUOTE MANAGEMENT OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS. ALL OF THIS TRAINING WOULD BE OF A PRACTICAL NATURE AND UNDER CONDITIONS WHERE SCIENTISTS WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT ACTUAL WORK. PRESIDENT INDICATED DESIRE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER OF ASSISTANCE.

2. DURING VISITS TO REGIONAL RESEARCH STATIONS AND AT TWO WELL ATTENDED SEMINARS ARRANGED BY AND CONDUCTED WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION AND KABUL UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, BORLAUG STRESSED NEED FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING CURRENT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS. HE URGED INCREASED ATTENTION TO BREEDING PROGRAMS, SELECTION OF HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES AND BETTER CULTURAL PRACTICES IN PRODUCTION OF WHEAT ON RAIN-FED LAND. HE URGED THAT GOA MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SMALL FARMERS TO OBTAIN CREDIT, FERTILIZER MATERIALS, SEEDS, WEED-CIDES AND FARM MACHINERY SO THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE COUNTRY TO EXPAND FOOD PRODUCTION; SMALL FARMER STIMULATION TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IS VITAL TO MEET NEEDS OF AN EXPANDING POPULATION.

3. IN COURSE OF MEETINGS WITH AFGHANS AND AMERICANS CONCERNED WITH POPULATION PROBLEMS AND SERVICES TO PEOPLE AND PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, BORLAUG DISCUSSED IMPORTANCE OF INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND COUNTRY'S CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOOD AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR ITS GROWING POPULATION. HE NOTED NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERA-
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TION FUTURE REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS FOOD, HOUSING, CLOTHING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE AND JOB OPPORTUNITY POLICIES APPROPRIATE FOR AN INCREASING POPULATION.

4. THROUGH SEMINARS, RECEPTIONS AND LUNCHEONS, BORLAUG SPOKE TO SEVERAL HUNDRED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AFGHAN STUDENTS. HE WAS GIVEN A DINNER BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND A LUNCHEON BY THE AMBASSADOR, BOTH OF WHICH WERE ATTENDED BY TOP GOA

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AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER OFFICIALS. ALSO, FIRST HAND
OBSERVATION OF COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL SITUATION WAS MADE DURING
THREE-DAY FIELD TRIP TO KUNDUZ AND BAGHLAN PROVINCES WHERE HE
OBSERVED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES NOW BEING USED TO
PROMOTE ADOPTION OF HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES. DURING ENTIRE
VISIT HE CONSTANTLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FOOD PRODUCTION
AND ITS CONTRIBUTION FOR ESTABLISHING STABLE PEACE.

5. TOWARD END OF VISIT DR. BORLAUG GAVE VERY SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC
LECTURE UNDER GENERAL TITLE "FOOD AND POPULATION" AT USIS.
DURING FINAL DAY PRESS CONFERENCE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES ALL
AFGHAN MEDIA. ARTICLES BASED ON PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARED
ALL MEDIA AND ONE PAPER CARRIED SERIALIZED ALMOST VERBATIM
VERSION. DURING BOTH LECTURE AND PRESS CONFERENCE
BORLAUG NOT ONLY EMPHASIZE NEED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION,
URGED AFGHANS BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN GRAIN PRODUCTION,
DEVELOP HIGH VALVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE EXPORT INDUSTRY, BUT
ALSO STRESSED POPULATION GROWTH MUST BE BROGHT UNDER CONTROL
IF LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING STANDARDS TO BE ACHIEVED,
OR EVEN CURRENT ONES MAINTAINED.
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